DR. SEWARD WEBB'S HIGH BRED HACKNEYS.

Living Treasures Displayed to the Fortunate Guest of "Shelburne Farms."

GRAND STALLIONS AND MARES.

Building for the Occupancy of Horses Rivalling in Size the Duke of Portland's Stable.

GEM FARM OF THE GREEN MOUNTAINS.

It was a happy inspiration that made Dr. W. Seward Webb select Shelburne, Vt., as a suitable place to establish a country residence.

Although the distance sounds great, it is really within easy access of New York, as one leaves the city after an early dinner and arrives at Shelburne in time for an early breakfast.

The road from the station to the property is well graded, and a large portion has been macadamized by Mr. Webb. When I visited Shelburne a fortnight ago, two feet of snow covered the ground, and there was nothing to be seen save the tops of the fences and trees. On the way to the entrance gates one passes the dairy house, which is a plain, unpretentious building of considerable size, but is fitted up inside with every requirement appertaining to a dairy.

The road from the entrance gate is particularly pretty. That to the house winds through woods and glades. The ground is undulating and the soil fairly rich, though in some parts the previous owners have considerably exhausted it, but a few years' careful farming will restore it to its former excellence.

SHELBURNE FARMS.

Dr. Webb's estate in all comprises about 3,000 acres, and it is aptly called "Shelburne Farms," as the land which he owns was bought from at least a score of proprietors. It is only about five years ago that Dr. Webb paid his first visit to Burlington, purchasing a small place near that town. He took a fancy to the land which he now owns and bought out the various owners. Their land was, of course, all fenced in, none of the farms being over about 150 acres in extent. There was, however, a considerable amount of woodland.

The property runs from the main road half a mile from Shelburne station to the shores of Lake Champlain, about three miles distant, and Dr. Webb's first piece of work was to clear away the fences, his idea being to make the place look as park-like as possible. In this he has admirably succeeded. With the exception of that portion devoted to the grazing paddocks, the whole of the rest of the property is open. The larger portion of the cleared land, comprising about 1,200 acres, is laid down in grass, which yields about 1,700 to 2,000 tons of excellent hay. There is a certain amount of arable land, though not much, and the larger portion of the oats, straw and corn is purchased from outside sources.

Dr. Webb about three years ago built a very comfortable house on the borders of Lake Champlain, and the view from his windows, on the Lake and the Adirondacks in the distance, is one of the most beautiful imaginable. In fact, from all parts of his farm the view is perfect. On one side can be seen the Lake, with the Adirondacks running down to its shores. On the other side can be seen the Green Mountains, now clad in a white robe, while yet beyond them are the White Mountains.

As I happened on my visit to strike particularly clear weather, although the whole country was clad in white, the view of the sun setting and casting a pink light on the distant mountains, was one of the most superb sights I ever saw.

Close to the house is the landing dock, and a little further on is the shipping dock, at which a good sized steamer can be anchored. There is a large stable and coach house close to the house, which, when the owner is at home, is kept well filled, and from a very comfortable coachman's house windows the view of the Lake and mountains is as fine as that from the Doctor's residence.

Within a half mile of the house is a sheep and poultry farm. Here are kept a flock of fine selected Southdowns and Hampshiredowns that would take prizes at most country fairs. I should have said that the dairy farm was on the other side of the property, where is kept a herd of forty head of pure Jerseys, of Rioter blood.

ÆSTHETIC APPURTENANCES.

The gardens are situated about half a mile from the house and are very extensive, as can be easily perceived when it is known that a thousand roses and a thousand violets are now shipped every week to New York. The rosery is 200 feet long and all of the houses are heated with hot water. Near by, also, is a nursery, which contains 30,000 young trees and shrubs, for planting out on the estate, to do which a forester of experience is kept busy, with a gang of assistants, all the year round.

The estate, during Dr. Webb's absence, is in charge of Mr. A. Taylor, a Scotchman, who has had much experience in matters of this sort. He has an admirable assistant in Mr. John Ward, a young man brought up in Shelburne. The houses, gardens and sheep farm, the dairy, breeding farm and horse barns are all supplied by water from Lake Champlain. It is pumped up to an elevation of 275 feet, and five and one half miles of pipe convey the water to the above mentioned spots. There is a tremendous pressure and mains are laid in convenient places, and several hundred feet of hose is kept in continual readiness, and the possibility of a fire is reduced to a minimum, particularly as every building on the estate is connected by telephone with the central office, close to which a hose wagon is kept, so in the event of a fire, a very few minutes would bring the necessary equipment on the spot to subdue the flames.

MAKING A GAME PRESERVE.

It is Dr. Webb's intention to place a lot of game, including English pheasants, on the property, and two men are now on their way from England who will raise 3,000 this coming winter. So he will doubtless in a few years' time have excellent shooting. The land is admirably situated for this from its natural lay, and the only thing required will be to plant out the requisite undercover and to hand feed largely, to keep game within bounds.

The property has excellent roads, most of which have been made during the last twelve months. Dr. Webb about a year ago established a stone crusher, capable of crushing one hundred tons of road stone a day, and which has been kept during the past few months in constant use. All this of course is a little outside of our subject, but Shelburne Farm is so remarkable a place, and has arisen in such a marvellously short time that the space devoted to a short description is by no means lost. It seems almost incredible that so much could have been done in such a short space of time, and it is hardly too much to say that if Dr. Webb continues for the next five years as he has commenced, he will have one of the most superb and perfect country residences—for it can hardly be called a breeding farm—in the world.

Of course, the buildings are of wood, but they all have stone foundations and in several cases the first story has been built of huge blocks of red limestone, which are alike durable and picturesque. Over this foundation rise the towering buildings which house the hundreds of horses that Dr. Webb has collected, and which house the immense amount of implements of every kind, and the gigantic stores of grain and feed that are required for the vast numbers of live stock he has purchased.

MODEL FARM BARN.

It would be well, perhaps, to begin with the buildings known as the "Farm Barn." This is built on three sides of a square the fourth side being of massive stone wall, with a massive gateway in the middle, looking west. The square thus formed is 416 feet long by 268 feet deep.

The main building of the square, which is 416 feet long and about 50 deep, is no less than five stories high, and is surmounted by a high tower, in which is a clock. The ground floor of this building contains the stable, in which are housed the mules and work horses. There are in all forty-eight mules, none of them less than 16 hands high and one pair over 17. Besides there are about thirty work horses, which are daily employed, together with the mules, for carting stone, feed and stores to the different parts of the estate. Beyond are the harness rooms in which the farm harness required for the eighty to one hundred animals used is kept.

At one end is the coach house, in which is the hose carriage and hose sleigh, one for summer and the other for winter, half a dozen farm sleighs and light wagons, used for carrying light produce to and from the station. On the floor above this are the granaries.

In the centre reaching up to the ceiling is an enormous hay barn, capable of containing 1,200 tons of hay. On the other side are storerooms for grain, storerooms for carriages, and in one room are stowed away a dozen magnificent elk, moose and red deer heads, which some day will be transferred to the house. On the other side are barrels of apples of excellent quality, as there are several orchards on the property. In the north wing, which is 268 feet long and terminates in a tower, are the various implements—ploughs, harrows, mowing machines and other implements—used on the farm. During haying time not infrequently sixteen and eighteen mowing machines can be seen in a field together. The grain barn extends the entire length of the upper story.

The first portion of the south wing is used to store the road engine, the rollers and other implements appertaining to road making. Further down are more farm implements, and the whole of the top is filled with straw, of which there must be at least 700 tons. While the foundations, and in some cases the first stories of this huge pile is of stone, the rest is of wood, and the sloping roofs and picturesque gables give the building a very handsome appearance. It is of a dark color.

Close to this are the offices, of which building the ground floor is devoted to a storeroom, in which are stored every kind of new implement and harness required on the estate, and for which an order must be obtained from the head of a department and countersigned by Mr. Taylor before it is issued by the clerk in charge.

In the office are kept the records of the estate and four bookkeepers are hard at work keeping the accounts of the men, no easy job, as it must be remembered that no less than four hundred workmen are employed on the estate all summer. Here also are kept the entire records of the stud farm, the poultry farm, sheep farm, dairy and the gardens, each department having a separate account. A few yards from this is the engine house, by which the huge farm barn, offices and the various other buildings are heated. The engine also is used to drive the machinery in the farm barn, by which the grain is lifted to the granaries, the hay to the hay lofts, and feed is cut.

Alongside is the paint shop, carpenter shop and the blacksmith shop, in which four men are employed shoeing the horses and repairing the hundreds of implements used on the estate. Each repair is charged to the department to which it belongs. About one hundred feet from the offices is a group of buildings, which includes the barracks for the hands employed in the agricultural part of the farm, and the club house for the bookkeepers and sub-managers and other employees, all of which are heated by steam. They are ceiled with white varnished pine, and are extremely comfortable. The men's barracks will hold about sixty or seventy men, though, of course, there are not that many men there at present.

WONDERS OF THE BREEDING FARMS.

The breeding barns are situated about three quarters of a mile from the farm barn, and are under the management of Mr. William West, who occupies a picturesque house on the summit of the rising ground that overlooks the different buildings, all of which are in full sight of the house. There are in all five different sets of buildings. One of them can hardly be called completed, but when finished can honestly be called one of the wonders of America. It is a building 418 feet long by 107 feet wide, making it, I believe, the largest building of its kind devoted to horses. The Duke of Portland's riding school at Wellbeck is not as long a building, it being 396 feet long by 108 in width. It, however, is built of stone while Dr. Webb's building is of wood.

Around the inside of the building are rows of box stalls, each twelve by sixteen feet and ceiled with white pine. In all there are thirty-two stalls in each side. At each end of the building is a row of twenty stalls, so that the building will house one hundred and four horses, besides having in the centre an exercising ring, about 85 feet in width and 375 in length. The inside will be laid down in tan and will be warmed throughout by steam heat.

At one end will be an annex, which will be used as a harness room. This building is not yet fully completed, but will be in the course of a very short time. The roof is on and the stalls at either end are ready for occupancy. In front of this building is a large exercising ring, which has been graded at considerable expense, and will be an excellent place for exercising, being nearly a mile in circumference.

The first stable I visited was that occupied by the stallions, and the first horse stripped was Almont Wilkes, by Almont, first dam by George Wilkes. Those who saw him at the recent horse show cannot have failed to have been struck by his great power and strength as well as wonderful quality. His hindquarters are perfection. He has tremendous, clean, flat bone, large, clean hocks, and he is a grand horse to look at. To my mind his one fault is that possessed by a majority of trotting stock—he is a trifle heavy about the neck. He has a grand shoulder and plenty of forearm, big girth and abundance of heart room. Of course, his breeding is undeniable; but apart from that, his appearance alone, even to a man who does not understand trotters, cannot fail to recommend him as a sire. His get, even if they do not trot, are bound to be useful as showy carriage horses, and Dr. Webb is extremely fortunate in getting such an excellent sire.

The next horse stripped was Courier, a bay hackney stallion, standing 16 hands, and only three years old. He is by Canvasser, dam May Day, and was bred by Mr. C. E. Cook, of Norfolk, England. For his age, Courier is a wonderful horse. He has plenty of substance, good bone, and is a fine up-standing horse in every way. He has plenty of action, moves with grand dash and fire, and for a three-year-old is a really wonderful animal. His faults will tone down with time, and in a couple of years he eventually will be a hard horse to beat. Courier's breeding is exceptionally good, as both from his dam and sire he inherits fine action and quality. Any one who wishes to get size as well as quality will do well to put their mares to Courier.

GREAT STALLIONS.

The next horse I saw was Brown Fashion, and I was immensely struck with him. He certainly showed up a great deal better than when in New York. I hear there he was out of sorts, and he certainly did not show well in the ring. He is in color a rich, dark brown, with two white stockings on the near side. He has immense power and substance and a wonderfully short back. His neat head is very well set on and he has a grand, sloping shoulder and very muscular forearm and deep girth. His knees and feet are exceptionally good and he is all over a splendidly, compact and showy horse. His pasterns and feet are good and he has, as I said before, a short back, very strong loins and wonderfully good quarters, his lines being very true. His second thighs are very muscular, his hocks clean and his bone big, and whether standing or in motion he shows a wonderful lot of quality. He is by Confidence, dam Miss Addie, a thoroughbred, and very probably from her he gets his dash and fire. He is a wonderfully true and elastic mover, with very high, but at the same time very free action.

After this we saw Accident, and I must admit being rather disappointed with him. He is a horse that has taken many prizes in England and Paris. He was bred by Mr. Thomas Cook, of Yorkshire, England, and is wonderfully well bred. He is a brown stallion, fifteen hands high and four years old. His shoulders are good, but I did not like his middle piece, which is not nearly as good as that of Brown Fashion. Nor did I like his action. He steps high, but seems to hang a good deal, not moving nearly as free as either Brown Fashion, Courier or Spotbro Fashion. His feet are excellent, his legs being short, with flat bone and plenty of it. He certainly is a showy horse and exhibits a great deal of quality, and the catalogue description shows that he came from the famous stud of the Brothers Cook, of Pocklington.

Before describing the mares it would be well to describe the rest of the breeding farm buildings. The four stallions I have mentioned were in a separate building composed of four extremely large, loose boxes, which stand near to Mr. West's house. Directly opposite these on the other side of the road are the men's quarters and the rooms where they feed, underneath being a stable wherein are housed a large number of Shetland ponies; beyond is a stable in which are the mares. Beyond this again is a large stable holding about thirty mares, some for carriage and harness and others for brood purposes. And again beyond this building is a long row of loose boxes, some of which contain mares and others stallions.

Returning again to Mr. West's house on the summit of the rising ground and from there walking west one comes to a large barn, holding about forty horses. Most of these are brood mares and foals, some hackneys and some of them trotters and coaching mares which have been bred to thoroughbreds, an experiment in which Dr. Webb is greatly interested and which seems to promise well.

HACKNEY MARES.

It would be best to give a list of the hackney mares, for in this Mr. Webb stands pre-eminent among breeders of hackneys in America. No one else has as many and no one has paid such large prices, and if the results are as good as they promise to be he will be well rewarded for his trouble and expense. The list of mares is as follows:—

1. My Fancy, sire Danmark, dam by Sir Garnet.
2. Faith, sire Confidence, dam Duchess.
3. Lady Alice, sire Fimber Fireaway, dam Bonny.
4. Dollo Fireaway, sire Foston Fireaway, dam by Kendall Performer.
5. Her Majesty, sire Confidence, dam by Shales (Pratt's).
6. Dagmar, sire Denmark, dam by Bounding Willow.
7. Leona Fireaway, sire Fireaway, dam Inspected.
8. Lily Goman, sire Star of the West, dam 1,632 Lady Goman.
9. Ladu Triffit, sire Royal George, dam Spider.
10. Bet Fireaway, sire Fireaway, dam Nance.
11. White Socks, sire Sir John, dam by Denmark.
12. Dropping Well, sire Superior, dam by Randolph.
13. Belle Lyons, sire Canidate, dam Lady Lyons.
14. County Maid, sire County Member, dam Lily of the Valley.
15. Minnehaha, sire Canidate, dam Primrose.
16. Czarina, sire Lord Derby II., dam Dagmar.
17. False Vows, sire Canidate, dam 502 Priory Maid.
18. Fannie H., sire Confidence, dam by Read's Notary.
19. Nitrate, sire Copenhagen, dam Lady Fireaway.
20. Trinket, sire Fireaway, dam 591 Beauty.
21. Silver Belle, sire Wildfire, dam Jessie.
22. Shepherdess, sire Confidence, dam Primrose.
23. Martha, sire The Colonel, dam Miss Wallace.
24. Lulu, sire Sultan, dam Trinket.
25. Stockingnet, sire Canidate, dam Silver Belle.
26. Dale, sire Rufus, dam Shepherdess.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Taking these mares in the above order, My Fancy is a brown mare, 15.3 hands high. She is a good stamp mare, with good shoulders, plenty of depth, a nice mover, perhaps a trifle light in front if anything. She is, however, an uncommonly good mare and should prove remunerative.

Faith is a big mare, looking more than her height, with rather rugged quarters, very deep chest, strong back and middle piece, very good feet and capital action. She should make an excellent brood mare, and as she was only foaled in 1885 has a long career in the stud before her.

Lady Alice is a beautiful mare in every respect. She is fifteen hands high, was foaled in 1888 and has taken a wonderful lot of prizes. She is a very bright chestnut, with a very neat head, very well set bone, high knee, splendid shoulders, strong loins, muscular quarters and a splendid set of legs and feet. She is a wonderfully neat mare to look at, whether standing or in motion, as her high action is very true and her carriage hard to beat.

Doll Fireaway is one of the old fashioned sort. She has tremendous power and yet has a great deal of quality. Her shoulders are particularly good, and she is as powerful as a dray horse in her hindquarters. She has great bone and capital shoulder action, and mated with Brown Fashion, the product, I should think, would be very hard to beat.

Her Majesty, who goes as a pair to Dagmar, was a little out of shape when I saw her, as she had mysteriously gone lame and was in the doctor's hands. She is a grand looking mare in every way and I was surprised after seeing her in the show ring to find she was only 14.3, as her tremendous action and girth make her look a great deal higher. She is by Confidence and therefore a half sister of Brown Fashion. She has an excellent head, well set on, a very good middle piece, a splendid back, good barrel, short legs and good bone, and from what I remember of her has splendid action.

Dagmar is, to my mind, the best horse Dr. Webb has in his stables. Looking at her it is almost impossible to find a fault. She gives one the idea of being "long, low and level." Her girth is immense for her size; she has a grand forearm, with beautiful legs and feet, and a good, honest head well set on, capital middle piece, good barrel, strong loins, well ribbed up, muscular quarters, clean hocks and good pasterns and feet. Her tail is well set on and she is a delightful mover. If I was made an offer of any animal on Dr. Webb's farm I would choose Dagmar.

Leona Fireaway is a big black mare, who should make a grand brood mare, but is rather coarse. She has tremendous bone and has a wear-and-tear look about her which, while it detracts from her personal appearance to some extent, will make her a grand mare to breed with a horse of such quality as Brown Fashion.

Lady Triffit is a dark roan mare, inclined to be carty in appearance. She should make a useful brood mare.

Bett Fireaway has a bright head and compact, and has some wonderfully good points. Belle Lyons is a nice mare, but rather small and light. Minnehaha, a chestnut filly by Candidate, should grow into a fine mare. She has good quarters and shows lots of bone. She is admirably bred and her dam, Primrose, was a winner of a long list of prizes. Primrose is by Sheperd F. Knapp, an American bred horse.

Czarina is by Lord Derby II., dam Dagmar, and is a neatly turned filly, not quite as good as her dam, being rather lighter in bone and not being of as nearly good stamp. She is, however, neat and should make a good brood mare, mated with such a horse as Courier.

BRIGHT PARTICULAR STARS.

I now come to one of the flowers of the flock in Nitrate, by Copenhagen, dam Lady Fireaway, and bred by Mr. Burdett-Coutts. She was foaled in 1889, is rather of a dark chestnut in color, but might also be described as a roan chestnut. She stands 14.3 1-2, and the only thing against her is her four white legs; but as these legs are exceptionally good in bone and conformation the color will not be at all to her detriment. She wonderfully resembles Dagmar in general conformation, but, of course, when full grown will be larger. Her head and neck are perfection. She has a beautiful shoulder, small back and fine quarters, and for a filly of her age shows wonderful action. She shows, if the expression may be used, very little coltishness, being wonderfully fined down, and if Dr. Webb elected to try conclusions on the other side of the water with her I should not be surprised if the blue ribbon came to Shelburne Farm.

Trinket is a first class mare, standing 15.2 1-2 and wonderfully well topped, with capital bone and action.

Silver Belle is one of the best mares Mr. Webb owns. She and her description in the catalogue are so good that I repeat it in extenso:—

"Silver Belle stands on a tremendously powerful set of the right shaped legs, which she knows how to use to perfection. Her action is superb, as not only does she put down her feet to the time of 1, 2, 3, 4, so dear to the lovers of the hackney, but there is the extra dash 'out and on' of the knee so much admired. Her top is good and her shoulders well placed. Her middle is excellent and her quarters are far beyond the average. Silver Belle's breeding is at once made interesting by the fact that her sire, Wildfire (1,224), is the son of that much respected matron Polly Horsley, by Triffit's Fireaway. Silver Belle does not present any combination of the Fireaway and Denmark blood, for her dam, Jessie, is by a half brother of the famous Lord Derby II., out of a mare who was a granddaughter of the well known horse Rickell's St. Giles, often referred to as one of the best stallions. This triple combination of the blood of Triffit's Fireaway, Lord Derby and St. Giles will, however, at once strike the eye of breeders as full of promise for the produce of Silver Belle."

Shepherdess, a bay mare foaled in 1886, is rather light to my mind, but she is wonderfully well topped and shows a great deal of quality with beautiful action.

Last but not least among the hackneys came Spotbro Fashion, a four-year-old black stallion by Charlie's Fireaway, dam Perfection, standing 15 hands high. He was bred by Mr. W. B. Wayman, of Willrow, Cambridgeshire, England, and was imported by Gailbraith Brothers, of Janesville, Wis., from whom he was bought by Dr. Webb. He is a horse with a good deal of action and a strong, firm mover, and his get should be "cobby." He has easy motion and is nice tempered. This finished the long list of hackneys.

SOME NICE COACHERS.

After this came the coachers. Here Dr. Webb has been successful in obtaining a very nice lot of horses, and ones that will make their mark on the stock of Vermont. Jeanbart is a light bay French stallion, standing 16.2, foaled in 1887. He is by Senechal, dam Brebis, who was bred by Sebastian Fleury-Greville, Manche, France. He is a wonderfully matured horse for his age, having great muscle and bone, good forearm and good shoulder. He has a very honest head and good, big kindly eyes, and his quarters are very wide. He has excellent knee action and will undoubtedly grow into an uncommonly fine horse. He is as gentle as a kitten, and indeed all Dr. Webb's carriage stallions seem to have very good dispositions.

The best of the bunch, I think, was Javanais. I liked him better than Incroyable. Of course his age is against him, as he is not yet matured. In color he is a beautiful seal brown. His shoulders are good and his forelegs are excellent, his middle piece is good, his thighs and quarters are exceptionally good, especially for so young a horse. He has good flat bone and very good feet. He has a good rangy neck, well set on head, his only apparent fault being a rather small eye. He moves with a great deal of vim and spirit and is a good traveller. He is the best coaching stallion I have seen in this country. He is by Agnadel, dam Raphle, and was bred by Le Sieur, Gourbsville, Manche, France.

Jactator, by Rigoner, dam Rosalie, breeder A. Lesforgettes, Brocottes, Calvados, France, is a light bay stallion, standing 16.2, foaled on April 1, 1887, and is a very big, handsome horse. He is well ribbed and is a nice mover, with a great deal of action and forearm.

Job, a light bay stallion—also a three-year-old—is by Trouble, dam Ella, and was bred by Count de Vigneral, Ri Orne, France. He stands 15.2, and though smaller than the others is in many ways a better horse. He has wonderful bone, good feet and very good sloping shoulders, nice quarters, wide hips, well set on tail, very bloodlike and of good action, both going from and coming to one, his hind action being fully as good as his fore. He is a very trim, neat looking horse and should make his mark at the stud.

Incroyable is a dark chestnut stallion, foaled in 1878, standing 16.1. He has tremendous bone and splendid action. He was imported by Mr. William K. Vanderbilt in 1882 and is by Kabir.

COACHING MARES.

Among the coaching mares are Fernande, a dark brown mare standing 16 hands, that took first prize at the recent horse show. She was foaled in 1885 and is by Valerien, dam Tempete. She is a good mare and her progeny should turn out uncommonly good. She has great size and a great deal of quality.

Castile is a dark brown mare, foaled in 1887. She is by La More, dam Angela, and was bred by Mr. August Mouchel, St. Marcouff, Volognes, France, and like all Dr. Webb's coachers was imported in 1890.

Negresse, is a dark brown mare, standing 16 hands. She was foaled in 1887 and is by Vautrain, dam La Poule. She is a very powerful mare, with great size and substance.

Antoinette is a dark brown mare, also a three-year-old, and is by Romano, dam Mouvette. She was also bred in Manche, France, as was Claire, a light bay mare sired by Celebre, dam Dijon and bred by Jean Letellier, Manche, France, who also bred Mademoiselle, also a three-year-old, by Celebre, dam Lizette.

Mouchel is a chestnut mare, sired by Ray Grass, dam Corsair. She was foaled in 1878, being bred by Leiodey Emila, Manche, France. This ends the coaching mares.

HALF A HUNDRED CARRIAGE MARES.

Besides these Dr. Webb has fifty-seven carriage mares, many of them by Incroyable and some by Siddartha, who, it will be remembered, was imported by Pierre Lorillard. Siddartha is a son of Pero Gomez, the winner of the Leger, and who ran second to Pretender in the Derby. A great many of the trotting mares have been bred to Siddartha.

Besides these there are about twenty geldings and that number of colts and fillies who but recently made their appearance into this vale of tears. Besides Almont Wilkes, mentioned above, Dr. Webb has Ormond, a dark bay stallion 15.1, foaled in 1882, by Happy Medium, record 2:32 1-2, first dam Queen Lizzie, by Mambrino Chief.

Happy Medium is a sire of Maxey Cobb, Brigadier, Norman Medium and Breeze Medium. His owner makes the following remarks in his catalogue:—

The breeding of this horse will bear a little attention and consideration. A glance at the roll of honor of his sire, Happy Medium, and his own record of 2:27 certainly prove him to be of a very fast family, and, moreover, a family possessing the highly essential quality of transmitting speed to their progeny. Twenty-two, with a record of 2:25 or better, and fifty-two in the 2:30 list, and the sires of the dams of eleven in the 2:30 list is the record of the sire of Ormond, and his dam, Queen Lizzie, was one of the highest finished daughters of Mambrino Chief, sire of six and grandsire of twenty-two, including Director, Piedmont, Iona, &c., in the 2:30 list. A further consideration of pedigree will be of interest, showing a combination of blood of many valuable and noted horses too numerous for mention in these remarks. Ormond is a very strongly built horse, though, like all Happy Mediums, not of a very large type. He stands 15.1 hands high and makes a very desirable horse to breed to well developed mares. He is thoroughly broken and as gentle as a mare, and frequently used as a driver, both double and single, by owner.

Besides Almont Wilkes and Ormond, the latter of which Dr. Webb has used a great deal as a driving horse and who besides has a record of 2:27, he has a number of well bred mares, as follows:—

Forest Maid, black mare, height 15.2, foaled 1869; by Woodburn Pilot, dam Kitty Price.

Adele Clark, record 2:17¾, bay mare, height 15, foaled 1872; by Ledger, dam Hume Mare.

Grace Goodwin, bay mare, height 15.1, foaled 1881; by Almont, dam Dixie.

Agate, roan mare, height 15.3, foaled 1879; by Almont, dam Annie Bailey.

Dorothy, bay may, height 15.2, foaled 1881.

Maud Wilkes, chestnut mare, height 16, foaled 1881; by Red Wilkes, dam daughter of Brick Pomeroy.

Polly, bay mare, height 14.3¾, foaled 1881.

Shelburne Maid, bay mare, height 15½, foaled 1883, by Ethan Allen, dam Brownell mare.

Grace Nernon, bay mare, height 16, foaled 1884, by Nutwood, dam Miss Russell.

Gypsy Medium, bay mare, height 14.3, foaled 1885, by Happy Medium, dam Allie Thompson.

Elsie, brown mare, height 15, foaled 1885, by Daniel Boone, dam Kate.

Brownie, brown mare, height 15, foaled 1885, by Adonis, first dam Molley Clay.

Zumarga, light bay mare, height 15.1, foaled 1885, by Happy Medium, first dam Lizzie H.

Puss, bay mare, height 15, foaled 1885, by Young Walkill.

Nina, brown mare, height 14.3¾, foaled 1886, by General Boone, first dam Claude.

Dotty, roan mare, height 14.3, foaled 1881, by Lakeland's Abdallah, Jr., dam roan mare by General Sheridan.

Forest Girl, black mare, height 15.1¼, foaled 1887, by Steel Horse, first dam Forest Maid.

Walkill Girl, black mare, foaled 1887, by Gilroy, first dam Walkill Juno.

Fedalma, black mare, height 15, foaled 1887, by Pancoast, first dam Endora.

Bridesmaid, chestnut mare, height 15, foaled 1887, by Almont Wilkes, first dam by Homer.

Maiden Fair, bay mare, height 15.1¼, foaled 1887, by Happy Medium, first dam Mambrino Maid.

There are a number of young ones, among whom are:—

Walkill Maid, black mare, height 15, foaled 1888, by Ben Hawke, dam Walkill Juno.

Ben Lambert, bay colt, foaled 1888, by Ben Franklin, dam Dorothy.

Medicine Hat, bay colt, foaled 1889, by Ormond, dam Squealer.

Algomar, black colt, foaled 1889, by Ben Hawke, dam Walkill June.

Mollie, bay filly, foaled 1889, by Ormond, dam Shelburne Maid.

Joe, bay colt, foaled 1889, by Young Columbus, Jr.; dam daughter of Highland Gray.

Valcour, bay colt, foaled 1889, by Ormond, dam Dorothy.

Twinkle, bay filly, foaled 1890, by Mambrino Archy, dam daughter of Winooski.

Swift Current, dark brown colt, foaled 1889, by Ormond, dam Nora.

Vulcan, bay colt, foaled 1890, by Noble Medium, dam Mambrino Maid.

Random, black colt, foaled 1890, by Ben Franklin, dam Forest Maid.

Honeywood, bay filly, foaled 1890, by St Bel, dam Shelburne Maid.

Comet, bay colt, foaled 1890, by St. Bel, dam Maud Wilkes.

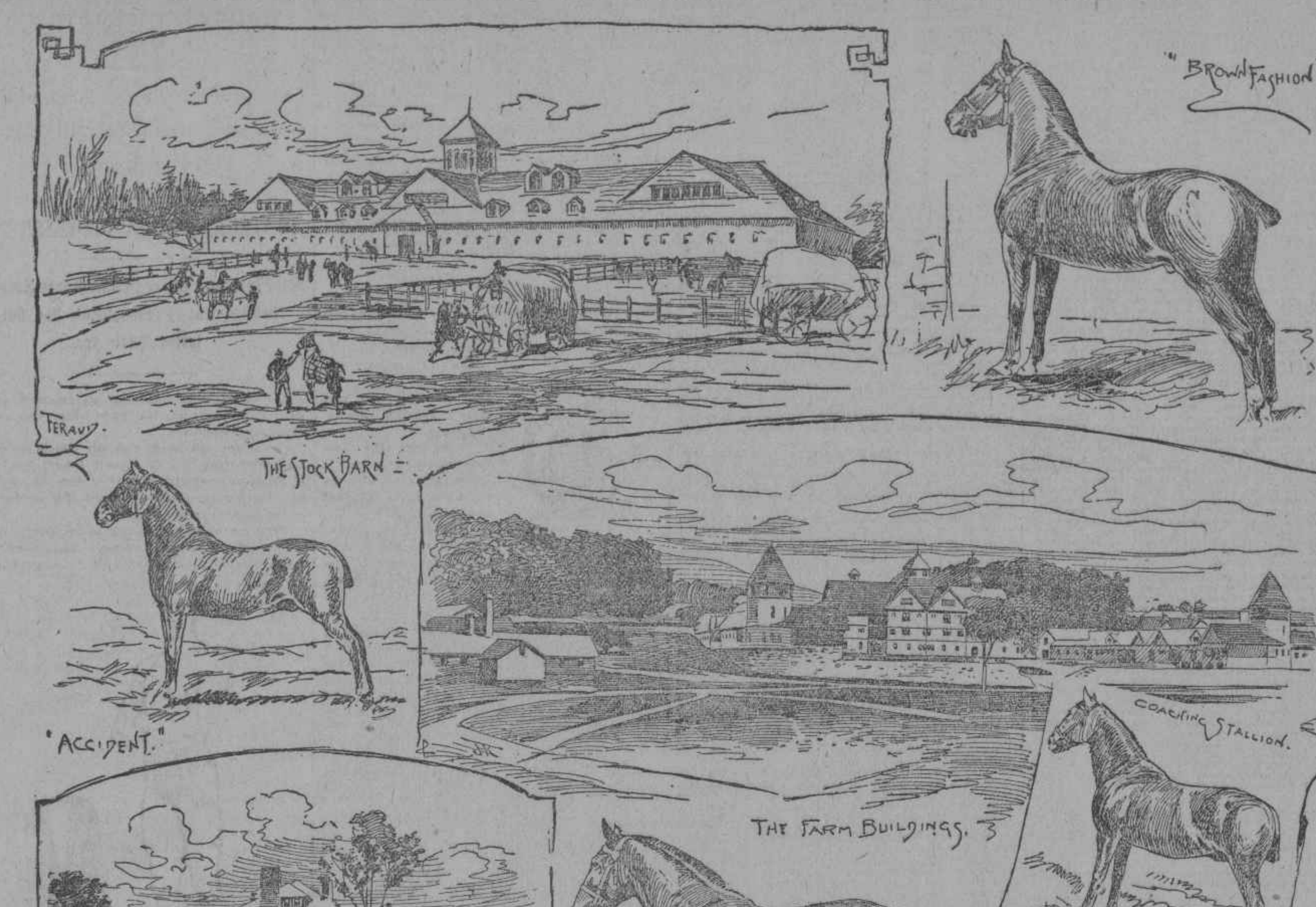
Ella, bay filly, foaled 1890, by Ormond, dam Elsie.

Vaseline, brown filly, foaled 1890, by Daniel Boone, dam Olga.

Such is a partial list of the animate treasures to be seen upon a tour of Dr. Seward Webb's model country seat, Shelburne Farms.

CHARLES S. PELHAM CLINTON.

DR. SEWARD WEBB'S STOCK FARM.



THE DEVIL!

The printer's devil has an appetite,
Equal to almost anything in sight;
Yet indigestion almost makes him die—
Whene'er he has an overdose of pi.

BEARS ON TOP.

Ticker—Things are getting awful in Wall street. The bears have it all their own way.

Dicker—Have they been making new raids?

Ticker—Yes; they have got so they won't allow a fellow to raise his voice!

"SHORTIES."

Eureka! as the cobpipe said to the cigarette.
The potters' field—Perth Amboy.
A brakesman—The borrower.
A bogus count—Porter.

WHAT THE DOCTORS SAY.

Poisoning from the Use of Spoiled Articles of Food.

PTOMAINES AND LEUCOMAINES.

Food Stuffs To Be Suspected and How to Detect Fermentation.

[From the European Edition of the Herald.]

The injury that may be done to our health by using certain articles of food that have become spoiled has been known from time immemorial, but no truly scientific explanation of this form of accident has ever been given until our day. Every one has read of cases of poisoning caused by eating shell fish, or pork that has become charged with trichinosis. These two accidents are quite frequent, particularly in certain countries where the unfortunate habit exists of not submitting articles destined for the table to a sufficient amount of cooking.

But in addition to these there are a number of other examples of alimentary poisoning, and on examining the question we find that damaged meats of all kinds, different forms of *charcuterie*, game, cheese and the various varieties of sea fish (particularly the representatives of the crustacean and mollusc families) have been accused in turn of doing damage. There is no doubt that these different articles of food have caused cases of poisoning under certain fixed circumstances, and the gravity of these cases will be seen at a glance when we add that in more than one instance they were followed by the death of several victims.

SIGNS OF POISONING.

By what exterior signs do these cases of poisoning by alimentary products manifest themselves? In a general way it can be said that each one of the different apparatus of organic life can be interested or compromised to a certain degree, and it is easy to see that in complex cases this fact will produce a great variety of symptoms. Disorders in the digestive apparatus naturally appear first, and sometimes take such a serious form that, in many cases, an attack of true and specific cholera has been feared.

Nausea, vomiting and diarrhœa constitute the symptoms that are usually met with, and that are considered almost obligatory. It is exceptional that these symptoms should be wanting, and combined with them we generally find the form of internal inflammation, which physicians call gastroenteritis. This is characterized by loss of appetite, a feeling of disgust at the thought of food, continued thirst and redness of the tongue. The fact that the nervous system is affected likewise is shown by the patient's weakness, feeling of lassitude and prostration (which may amount to temporary paralysis), chills, cramps in the legs and headache (which is sometimes atrocious).

Different disorders of the heart are also met with, and some cases have been seen in which the symptoms pointed to a case of poisoning by one of the substances considered as having a specific action on the central organ of the circulation (digitaline, cocoaine, &c.). A feeling of anxiety and of oppression and a very weak pulse belong especially to the latter category of accidents.

SYMPTOMS OF ALIMENTARY POISONING.

The phenomena which show themselves in connection with the external tegument are more apparent, and are sometimes the only signs we find. In any case they are those which cause the least anxiety, although their signification becomes often more complicated owing to their coincidence with more serious symptoms connected with the internal organs. They usually consist in different forms of eruptions, generally of a congestive nature—that is to say, produced by simple temporary disorders of the circulation, owing to which the skin shows red spots, more or less diffused in extent, and other marks of different varieties, accompanied by an intense itching which is extremely disagreeable. One form of the latter is represented by urticaria, an eruption very much like that produced on the skin by flea bites or by nettle stings. Urticaria appears especially after meals during which shell fish, lobsters or crabs have been eaten. It also shows itself on persons who have partaken of strawberries or of certain forms of *charcuterie*, and it is without doubt the symptom of a certain kind of poisoning.

This is a short *résumé* of the symptoms of what are called by common consent cases of alimentary poisoning. Our predecessors were quite aware of the existence of such cases; but owing to a lack of sufficient means of investigation an exact explanation of their cause was unknown to them.

It is to the chemical and physiological researches of our day that we owe our precise knowledge on these points. A few years ago MM. Selmi, in Italy; Gautier, in France, and Brieger, in Germany, took up this question and discovered in spoiled meat several forms of poisonous substances, of which they succeeded in isolating a certain number.

According to M. Gautier these poisons are really alkaloids, and are similar in every respect to vegetable alkaloids (caffeine, morphine and atropine), to which they can be compared both in their chemical formulæ and physiological properties. Different names have been given to these poisons, but for our present purpose it will be sufficient to say that they may be divided into two principal categories—*ptomaines*, which are the product of the putrefaction of animal tissues, and *leucomaines*, which are created in these tissues while they are in a fresh condition and while the animal is alive. This distinction is even a little subtle, and the limit between the two groups is in many cases not very closely defined.

If, now, we wish to get an insight into the activity of these chemical poisons we have only to refer to the very numerous experiments of Brieger, Gautier and of Poincarreé and Macé. The latter observers witnessed effects that were simply terrifying in rabbits and guinea pigs that had been inoculated with fragments of spoiled preserved meat.

Nearly all these animals died in the space of twenty-four or forty-eight hours. Of course, it is scarcely allowable to claim that what holds true for animals would be equally true for man, and yet under certain circumstances man has been known to suffer just as much as the lower species of animals.

There is no hiding the fact that the risk in using spoiled provisions is much greater than is generally thought. Two French army surgeons, MM. Labit and Collin, have published on this question a pamphlet filled with cases, and have pointed out a number of local epidemics in which a number of persons were seized with serious symptoms, which sometimes resulted in death.

In nearly all these instances a meal had been taken in common, during which some substance of doubtful origin had been consumed. These epidemics have been observed more commonly in Germany than elsewhere, as in that country the use of *charcuterie* is almost general, and musical gatherings are a pretext for excesses of all kinds.

In France, where the inhabitants are less given to excess, and where the general custom is to cook all meat very thoroughly, these accidents are much less common; and yet a certain number of partial epidemics have been reported, particularly in the army, which is put on a regimen of preserved meat to a much greater extent than the ordinary population.

Among other examples MM. Labit and Collin refer to the serious cases that occurred at the Camp d'Avor, and which disabled 227 men belonging to the Thirty-first brigade of infantry. A minute inquest proved that these accidents could be attributed neither to fatigue nor to overcrowding, nor to any atmospheric cause, but purely and simply to the use of some cold meat that had undergone a marked degree of alteration without the competent authorities being aware of it. This was also the case in the epidemic at Lille, in which seventy-eight persons were taken sick, out of whom three died.

The cause in this case was a hash made of veal and ham, of which no one suspected the freshness or the nutritive qualities. If we had sufficient space we could relate here many other cases similar to these.

PTOMAINES.

These products, which go by the name of *ptomaines*, have a considerable power of resistance against the different causes of destruction, and particularly against the action of high temperatures. This remark is important, as it gives us the explanation of the fact that certain forms of food are still harmful, in spite of a cooking so thorough as to seem sufficient to annihilate every trace of germs. It also explains the fact, that is in appearance unaccountable, of meat in which the closest microscopical examination fails to detect any microbe, and which, nevertheless, produces serious accidents in those who make use of it.

Can we draw any practical conclusions from these facts? Most assuredly, and it is evident that in choosing our articles of food it is of prime necessity to set aside any substance suspected of having undergone the slightest degree of fermentation. It is especially necessary to use the greatest caution with preserved food of all kinds, as its freshness is often doubtful, and its nutritive qualities not very great, in spite of the promises printed on the prospectuses with which they are accompanied.

But are there any signs which enable us with certainty to determine the existence and degree of this alteration? Yes, and among them some have a very high value; for instance, when we find the gelatine liquefied, the fat altered or the odor and consistency changed. These different characters, either by themselves or together, show that the work of putrefaction has begun, and are sufficient to enable us to refuse any substance in which they appear.

There are special signs in fish, such as the appearance in certain species of a reddish tint, when in their natural condition their flesh is white. This change is quite frequent in codfish, and is attributed to the presence of a microscopic fungus which develops and lives on the flesh of the animal. Whenever this appears the alimentary use of such codfish should be entirely forbidden. Similar remarks could be made of various other forms of food, and especially of game, which a number of persons persist in eating when in an advanced state of decomposition, in spite of the quantity of poisonous matter that they absorb in this way.